I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4).

Dated: August 7, 2008
Electronic Signature: /Edward A. Meilman/

Docket No.: H6807.0002
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Ryoji Inaba et al.

Application No.: 09/815,329

Confirmation No.: 4666

Filed: March 23, 2001

Art Unit: 1753

For: CAPILLARY ARRAY ELECTROPHORESIS APPARATUS AND ELECTROPHORESIS METHOD

Examiner: B. L. Mutschler

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated April 7, 2008, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.

FEE CALCULATION

Any additional fee required has been calculated as follows:

___ If checked, "Small Entity" status is claimed.

	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid	Number Extra Claims Present	Rate	Additional Fee
Total	33	- 33* =	0	$50	$0.00
Independent	3	- 6 * =	0	$210	$0.00
First presentation of Multiple Dependent Claim(s) (if applicable)					
				TOTAL	$0.00

*not less than 20 ** not less than 3

No additional fee is required.

In the event a fee is required or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the underpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

CONTINGENT EXTENSION REQUEST

If this communication is filed after the shortened statutory time period had elapsed and no separate Petition is enclosed, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is petitioned, under 37 CFR 1.136(a), to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 CFR 1.135. The fee under 37 CFR 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 (cancelled).

12. (Previously presented) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus comprising:

a capillary array constituted by a plurality of capillaries for containing electrophoresis medium for separating specimen, said capillary array including a detection portion formed by at least parts of the capillaries, said parts being aligned substantially on a plane;

a power source adapted to apply a voltage between respective ends of the capillaries; and

an irradiation and detection system including no less than one laser oscillator for irradiating laser beams across the detection portion respectively from both sides of the detection portion and for detecting light emitted from the specimen,

wherein the laser beams are incident on said plane so that the laser beams propagate successively to adjacent capillaries, and the laser beams transmitted through the detection portion do not return to the laser oscillator.

13. (Previously presented) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus comprising:

a capillary array constituted by a plurality of capillaries for containing electrophoresis medium for separating specimen, said capillary array including a detection portion formed by at least parts of the capillaries, said parts being aligned substantially on a plane;

a power source adapted to apply a voltage between respective ends of the capillaries; and

an irradiation and detection system including no less than one laser oscillator for irradiating laser beams across the detection portion and for detecting light emitted from the specimen,

wherein the laser beams are substantially coaxial within the detection portion, and not coaxial in the space out of the detection portion.

14. (Currently amended) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus comprising:

a capillary array constituted by a plurality of capillaries for containing electrophoresis medium for separating specimen, said capillary array including a detection portion formed by at least parts of the capillaries, said parts being aligned substantially on a plane;

a power source adapted to apply a voltage between respective ends of the capillaries; and

an irradiation and detection system including no less than one laser oscillator for irradiating laser beams across the detection portion and for detecting light emitted from the specimen,

wherein the laser beams are ~~incident on~~ inclined to said plane, and the laser beams propagate to adjacent capillaries.

15. (Currently amended) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim [[1]] 12, wherein the laser beam is incident on an outermost end capillary in the detection portion in an inclined manner so that an optical path of the incident laser beam into the end capillary differs from an optical path of a laser beam reflected from the detection portion.

16. (Currently amended) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim [[1]] 12, wherein an optical axis of the laser beam incident on an outermost end capillary is inclined with respect to a line that is perpendicular to a center axis of the end capillary on a plane formed by center axes of the capillaries in the detection portion.

17. (Currently amended) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim [[1]] 12, wherein each capillary is a glass tube covered with a coating and at least the coating on the capillary in the detection portion is removed.

18. (Currently amended) A capillary array electrophoresis apparatus according to claim [[1]] 12, wherein an optical axis of the laser beam incident on the end capillary is inclined with